



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 27, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: May 25, 2003
CWP WA-CW2103

Stripe Rust Becoming More Pronounced in Adams County Warm Temperatures Aid Crop Development

Field Crops

Stripe rust was becoming more pronounced, especially in red wheat in the southwest portion of Adams County. Overall, winter and spring cereals remained in good condition due to the favorable weather. Western Washington finally experienced daytime temperatures that were high enough for good crop growth and development. Gentle rains in Skagit County also provided ideal conditions for new plantings. Christmas tree growers continued applying insecticides and fungicides.

Livestock

Livestock producers in the west were trying to keep ahead of forage growth by green chopping. In Asotin and Garfield Counties, many pastures have not developed normally because of the cool spring growing season, even with the above average rainfall. Range and pasture conditions were 1% poor, 38% fair, 49% good, and 12% excellent.

Fruits and Vegetables

Whatcom County strawberries and blueberries were flowered and fruit was in the early stages of growing. Raspberries were also in full foliage but were not flowering at this time. Retail nurseries and garden stores reported excellent sales of bedding plants and transplants for the Memorial Day weekend. Seed spinach plantings was completed in Skagit County. In the central region, frost damage continued to be reported for grapes, peas, potatoes, and alfalfa. In Grant and Kittitas Counties, sweet corn planting continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.4
Last Week	5.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	8	90	2
Subsoil	0	6	91	3
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay & Roughage	0	2	98	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	100	99	100	100
Spring Wheat Emerged	97	90	94	97
Spring Wheat Headed	2	0	6	2
Winter Wheat Headed	19	12	22	27
Barley Planted	100	99	100	100
Barley Emerged	96	93	96	97
Barley Headed	1	0	0	0
Potatoes Planted	100	99	100	100
Potatoes Emerged	78	62	70	79
Corn Planted	98	87	79	92
Corn Emerged	65	40	12	0
Dry Edible Beans Planted	51	49	38	36
Proc. Green Peas Planted	99	97	87	0
Dry Peas Planted	99	98	98	99
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	52	22	28	18

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	5	19	50	24
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	2	80	18
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	40	37	23
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Barley Dryland	0	0	32	38	30
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Potatoes	0	0	5	46	49
Corn	0	0	0	100	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	4	39	57

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: The hum of tractors continued throughout the county, as ag producers continued cultivating fields for sweet corn production. The warm temperatures and ample moisture supply were ideal for seed germination. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring Douglas fir plantations for Midge and Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgid. Livestock producers were trying to keep ahead of forage growth by making green chop. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent growth and fruit set on early bearing varieties. Retail nurseries and garden stores reported excellent sales of bedding plants and vegetable transplants as home gardeners continued the tradition of planting the home garden on Memorial Day weekend.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Planting continued throughout the area. Silage harvest was in full swing. The weather was favorable for most spring activities.

Kitsap: Daytime temperatures were finally high enough for good crop growth and development. Fruit and vegetable crops were nearly back on schedule.

Pierce/S. King: The week started out cool and wet, but conditions improved by the end of the week. The FSA office received a report of damage to lettuce due to hail and frost. Other field crops suffered damage due to the hail and frost of last weekend (May 15-17). There were no other unusual conditions to report.

Skagit: Gentle rains most days provided ideal conditions for new plantings. Seed spinach planting was complete. Seed mustard was in bloom, and pollination conditions were

generally good. Lime applications were being made in a few fields. Growers and suppliers were trying to catch up after delays from the cool, wet spring. Apple producers were beginning thinning sprays. Tent caterpillar populations were high.

Snohomish/N. King: The weather was mostly dry for the week except for a few showers. Pastures grew well and grass harvest continued. Fields were mostly too wet to plant but other fieldwork continued as the weather permitted. The apple blossom stage was winding down.

Thurston: Heavy rainfall early in the week slowed field cultivation. By week's end however, turfgrass growers had resumed irrigation. Christmas tree growers continued applying insecticide and fungicides to Douglas fir plantations for the control of Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgid and Swiss Needle Cast. Blueberry growers set pollination hives in fields. Livestock producers continued harvesting forage in silage bags. Organic vegetable growers cultivated fields for weed control. A brilliant band of gold was woven throughout the rural landscape as a result of the prolific bloom of Scotch Broom. Home gardeners were replacing vegetable transplants destroyed by last weekend's severe frost.

Whatcom: Raspberries were in full foliage with no flowering at this time. Strawberries were flowered and were in the early stages of growing fruit. Organic beans and standard beans were being planted. Weather in the county was favorable to planting and much of the crops have been planted.

Central

Benton: Some frost damage in grapes was reported from the latest cold spell. Irrigation, cover sprays, and asparagus harvest were other activities.

Benton (2nd Report): Calls continued to be received about frost damage on fruit crops. Some rain showers were received during the week.

Ferry/Okanogan: Most of the spring grains have been planted. The northern regions of Okanogan and Ferry Counties have not completed spring plantings due to the cold spring weather.

Grant: Sweet corn planting continued. Crucifer (biennial) seed crops were in bloom. Frost from previous weeks

damaged peas, potatoes, and alfalfa. Early emerged potatoes were laid-by.

Kittitas: Sweet corn planting was in full swing. Potato planting was winding down. The first cutting of alfalfa was one week behind due to the cold spring conditions. Pasture and range conditions were in good shape. There were no reports of fruit damage from the cold temperatures received last week.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 3 degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with .03" of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter and spring cereals remained in mostly fair to good condition. With the lack of measurable precipitation during the past couple of weeks, soil moisture conditions were slowly moving from adequate to short supply.

Adams (2nd Report): The early part of the week was a little cooler than normal, helping most grains. The incidence of rust was becoming more pronounced, however; especially in red wheat in the southwest portion of the county. Late in the week, temperatures varied from the low 90's to the 60's. Hay went down throughout the county, and some was put up. Damage to the spring seeded grains from frost events of two weeks ago were showing in some areas.

Asotin/Garfield: After above normal rainfall throughout April, some areas were below normal rainfall in May. Warmer temperatures were welcome in most areas, but some crops began showing signs of heat stress in other areas. Crops in most areas were in good condition but behind normal for this time of year. After a cold spring growing season, many pastures have not developed normally, even with the above average rainfall in early spring.

Lincoln: Winter and spring cereals remained in mostly fair to good condition. The lack of precipitation during the past couple of weeks, in combination with the warm days, had moisture conditions slowly moving from adequate to short supply.

Stevens: The past week's weather was a mixed bag with frost early in the week, summer temperatures Friday and Saturday, and a thunderstorm at the close of the week.

Walla Walla: Weather conditions were favorable throughout the week. Heavy rain showers the evening of May 25 was welcomed in most areas. Warm weather greatly aided in the growth of crops.

Whitman: Warm, summer-like conditions prevailed in the Palouse area for part of the week, however; the hot weather generated some thunderstorm activity. Crop development was progressing with the warmer conditions. Most spring crops were emerged. Spraying spring crops and summer fallow work continued throughout the county.

Weekly Weather Statistics
May 27, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	36	72	56	3	46	15	4	4	0.86	0.37	5	24.31	-6.93	78	130
Everett	42	73	57	3	51	15	7	7	0.38	-0.17	5	23.75	-7.60	76	133
Hoquiam	37	73	56	2	45	14	4	4	0.11	-0.56	4	59.59	-2.91	95	146
Kelso	37	86	61	6	76	37	19	18	0.00	-0.54	0	23.19	-18.31	56	97
Olympia	35	78	58	5	58	28	10	10	0.06	-0.36	4	36.37	-10.12	78	139
Sea-Tac	41	76	58	3	61	17	7	7	0.19	-0.16	4	30.63	-2.85	91	128
Shelton	32	79	58	2	56	10	8	4	0.03	-0.46	3	54.04	-6.50	89	136
Tacoma	34	79	58	2	59	15	9	9	0.09	-0.33	3	25.86	-10.09	72	122
Vancouver	37	86	61	6	81	40	20	18	0.00	-0.49	0	33.96	-3.24	91	132
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	27	85	58	2	59	14	12	7	0.00	-0.14	0	7.77	0.14	102	76
Omak	30	85	60	5	72	31	21	17	0.01	-0.36	1	11.57	-0.12	99	57
Stampede Pass	29	70	48	6	17	17	0	0	0.33	-0.44	3	57.16	-16.93	77	135
Wenatchee	37	86	62	2	83	11	27	12	0.03	-0.10	1	8.62	1.67	124	70
Yakima AP	31	87	61	3	76	17	22	13	0.03	-0.11	1	7.97	1.21	118	57
NORTHEAST															
Colville	30	91	58	4	63	24	19	15	0.19	-0.29	1	16.09	-1.29	93	65
Deer Park	31	90	57	2	54	15	14	11	0.30	-0.05	1	19.24	3.85	125	89
Spokane AP	32	91	57	2	54	16	15	12	0.15	-0.20	2	13.60	0.06	100	96
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	34	88	61	-1	81	0	24	5	0.01	-0.13	1	7.53	1.47	124	53
Moses Lake	30	89	61	-2	80	-1	26	7	0.02	-0.12	1	7.87	1.81	130	72
Quincy	33	84	61	1	77	8	23	9	0.03	-0.11	1	6.03	-0.58	91	50
Ritzville	32	91	57	2	61	21	20	16	0.10	-0.11	1	10.73	1.06	111	77
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	32	87	64	-2	100	-3	40	6	0.04	-0.05	1	7.94	2.30	141	66
Pasco	32	91	63	0	94	6	35	10	0.12	-0.02	1	7.07	0.62	110	70
Pullman	35	91	57	4	53	24	14	14	0.31	-0.04	1	9.18	-8.53	52	82
Whitman Miss.	30	87	60	2	75	13	24	13	0.28	0.02	1	14.30	2.64	123	113
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	90	56	-2	53	6	18	13	0.29	-0.20	2	16.85	-4.49	79	92
Lewiston ID	37	93	62	3	90	22	38	25	0.15	-0.14	1	11.63	2.20	123	101

Summary based on NWS data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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